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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 6 (BERNAMA) -- ALL CIVIL SUITS BROUGHT BY UMNO MEMBERS OVER PROBLEMS IN THE PARTY ARE TO BE WITHDRAWN.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID TODAY THE SUPREME COUNCIL HAD AGREED THAT THE CASES WOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH PARTY CHANNELS.

HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING THE COUNCIL MEETING HERE THAT ALL PROBLEMS WITHIN THE PARTY WOULD BE SETTLED WITHIN THE PARTY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PARTY PROBLEMS COULD ONLY BE BROUGHT TO COURT IF THE SUPREME COUNCIL FAILED TO REACH A DECISION.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK MUSA HITAM, WHO IS UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT, WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE FIVE-HOUR MEETING AT UMNO HEADQUARTERS. -- MORE

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#### MAHATHIR-SUITS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID UMNO MEMBERS WERE BOUND BY THE PARTY CONSTITUTION AND THERE WAS NO REASON FOR THEM NOT TO ACCEPT SUCH A DECISION.

THE DECISION TO HAVE THE COURT CASES WITHDRAWN WAS MADE DURING DISCUSSIONS ON PROBLEMS WITHIN UMNO, HE SAID.

THESE CASES INCLUDED THE SUIT BY ENCIK BAHADOR SHAH, POLITICAL SECRETARY TO NATIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID, AGAINST FORMER KEDAH MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI SYED NAHAR SHAHABUDDIN OVER THE LATTER'S ALLEGATIONS THAT ENCIK BAHADOR HAD TRIED TO BUY VOTES DURING THE JERLUN-LANGKAWI UMNO DIVISIONAL ELECTIONS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD SECURED ENCIK BAHADOR'S AGREEMENT TO HAVE THE MATTER SETTLED WITHIN THE PARTY AND TO ACCEPT WHATEVER DECISION THAT WAS MADE. -- MORE

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### MAHATHIR-SUITS 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID BOTH PARTIES HAD AGREED TO SETTLE THE MATTER OUT OF COURT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ANOTHER IMPORTANT DECISION THAT WAS MADE RELATED TO A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE PARTY CONSTITUTION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ELECTED SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBERS TO 25 FROM THE PRESENT 20.

ON THE TUMPAT UMNO DIVISION, HE SAID THE SUPREME COUNCIL HAD ASKED THE DIVISION TO SHOW CAUSE WHY IT SHOULD NOT BE SUSPENDED.

THE DIVISION HAD BEEN GIVEN TWO WEEKS TO GIVE ITS REASONS TO DATUK MUSA AND THE PARTY'S DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE.

THE PROBLEM IN THE DIVISION AROSE WHEN A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KELANTAN UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE DIRECTED IT TO CALL OFF ITS DELEGATES' MEETING AS IT WAS BEING HELD AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

THE MEETING PROCEEDED ANYWAY BUT THE RE-ELECTION OF DIVISIONAL HEAD ENCIK MOHAMED AWANG WAS REGARDED BY THE STATE LIAISON COMMITTEE AS INVALID.

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### MAHATHIR-SUITS 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE SUPREME COUNCIL ALSO DECIDED THAT ALL UMNO LEADERS BE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS IN MELAKA.

FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN WOULD DEDICATE A MEMORIAL TO MARK THE NATION'S INDEPENDENCE AT THE CELEBRATIONS, HE SAID.

ON GUIDELINES TO CHECK UNHEALTHY TRENDS, INCLUDING +MONEY POLITICS,+ IN THE PARTY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED AND WOULD BE LOOKED INTO FURTHER BY A SPECIAL COMMITTEE HEADED BY DATUK MUSA. -- BERNAMA

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